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May 15, 2020

Thank you for subscribing to my e-newsletter. Below you will find updates from federal, state and local agencies. Should you have any questions about the information below, please do not hesitate to contact us using the contact details listed at the end of this newsletter.

I was pleased to see Texas business begin to reopen this week and appreciate all of the state agencies working together to ensure a safe reopening. The Texas economy will be further opened beginning Monday, May 18, 2020.

Gyms and other exercise facilities will be able to operate at 25% of the listed capacity, with a few restrictions. Additionally, office spaces and non-essential manufacturing businesses will also be permitted to reopen at the same 25% capacity or five people, whichever is greater, and so long as people are still abiding by social distancing procedures.

Should you have questions regarding anything in this newsletter, please feel free to contact us directly using the information provided at the bottom of this email.

Sincerely,



## Capitol Office Closure Notice

Our District office has reopened at minimum staffing levels, while the Capitol office will remain closed in line with Governor Abbott's executive orders. Our offices will remain functioning, with staff working remotely. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter.

## Opinion Editorial by Representative Huberty



State Representative - District 127  
&  
Chairman - Texas House Committee on Public Education

**Opinion Editorial by Dan Huberty**

May 12, 2020

Over the last several weeks, I've read a lot about the impact of the Coronavirus on the economy and our State budget. Several newspapers even published editorials about how Texas will fund, or not fund, the K-12 education system next legislative session. Therefore; I would like to offer my view for consideration. As chair of the Texas House of Representatives Public Education Committee, I am very familiar with the funding formulas, (the mechanisms we use to fund the K-12 education system), and the demands on the system. I am also familiar with the political will of the Texas Legislature to prioritize public education. It is because of this familiarity that I strongly disagree with any suggestion that one party is looking to harm schools next Session.

Does our State have fiscal challenges going into the next budget cycle? Yes, of course. However, like every business in Texas facing a tough road ahead, we must act and behave responsibly. That includes not overreacting and cutting where we cannot afford to cut. . . that is a terrible way to govern. Will Texas have to tighten its belt? Yes, of course. However, I believe that members of both parties will insist that we prioritize spending on public education. To try and suggest otherwise is to try and make something hyper-partisan that deserves better treatment.

I have worked in the education field for over 20 years. I take great pride in working on education issues in a bi-partisan fashion, as is tradition in the Texas Legislature. I also believe it is because of this tradition that we were able to make huge improvements to the funding formulas and accountability system with the passage of HB 3, the major school reform bill of the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.

Prior to last session, we started with a bi-partisan finance commission. We spent all of 2018 working on various recommendations, and the final Commission report was adopted unanimously. That report was then provided as the blueprint for the architecture of HB 3.

As a result, at the end of the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session HB 3 was UNANIMOUSLY passed by both the House and the Senate. In voting for it, every Republican and Democrat expressed that they understood the importance of public education (and its funding) for our economy, the future, and the millions of children we are constitutionally required to educate. HB 3 was and remains a sustainable approach to K-12 education for the future, even during down economic times.

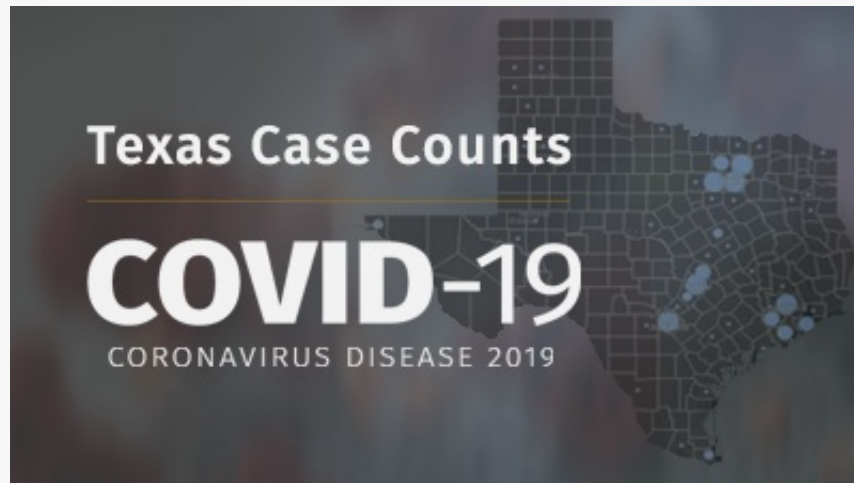
So where do we go from here? The answer lies with the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker and 181 dully elected members of the Legislature. We have already started working in a bi-partisan fashion towards the 2021 Legislative Session. Our House committee will hold hearings and work with our counterparts in the Senate to make sure we continue to keep, and further, the gains made under HB 3.

Our responsibility is to 5.5 million children in the State of Texas, and to ensure we provide them with the best possible education. Just as the vote on HB 3 was unanimous, I expect every member of the legislature, regardless of party, gladly undertakes this responsibility.

I have learned through my many years as both a businessman and educator that during a crisis it is important to stay positive, flexible and to not throw stones. Let's not waste our time fixating on the stone throwers who want to use this crisis to make public education funding hyper-partisan.

I will leave you with a quote from one of my favorite movies. When Apollo 13 was crippled in space and two NASA directors (based in Houston) were discussing the low chance of survival for the crew, one of them stated: "This could be the worst disaster NASA has ever experienced." Gene Kranz, the director of mission control, turned and said, "With all due respect sir, I believe this will be our finest hour."

With all due respect, we need to get back to work. We need to continue to work together on solutions and continue to do so in the bi-partisan tradition of the Texas Legislature. If we do that, I believe this could be our finest hour.



## Harris County Public Health Dashboard



Harris County  
**Public Health**  
Building a Healthy Community

[Click the image above to be directed to the Harris County Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

## Updates from Austin

### Governor Abbott, HHSC Announce Over \$1 Billion In Pandemic Food Benefits For Texas Families



Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

#### **Governor Abbott, HHSC Announce Over \$1 Billion In...**

Governor Greg Abbott today announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission

(HHSC) has received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide more than \$1 billion in food benefits through the federal Pandemic Electronic ...

[Read more](#)  
gov.texas.gov

## TEA Offers Free Tool to Parents & Schools to Diagnose How Much Their Students Learned This Year & to Help Educators Plan for the “COVID Slide”

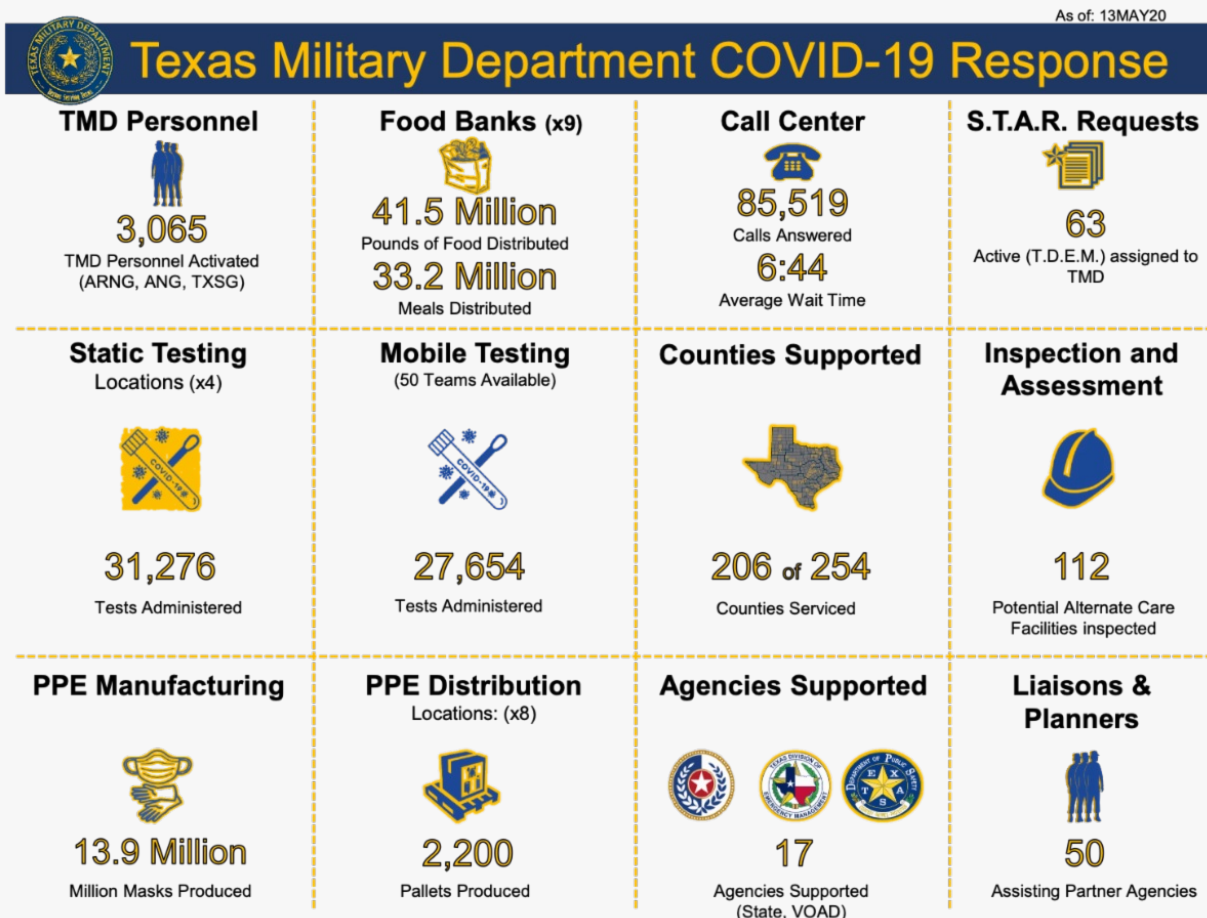


### TEA Offers Free Tool to Parents and Schools to Diagnose...

AUSTIN, Texas - May 12, 2020 - To further support student learning and an understanding of student progress even as students are educated from home for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year, TEA has launched free, optional end-of-year (EOY)...

[Read more](#)  
tea.texas.gov

## Texas Military Department COVID-19 Operations Summary



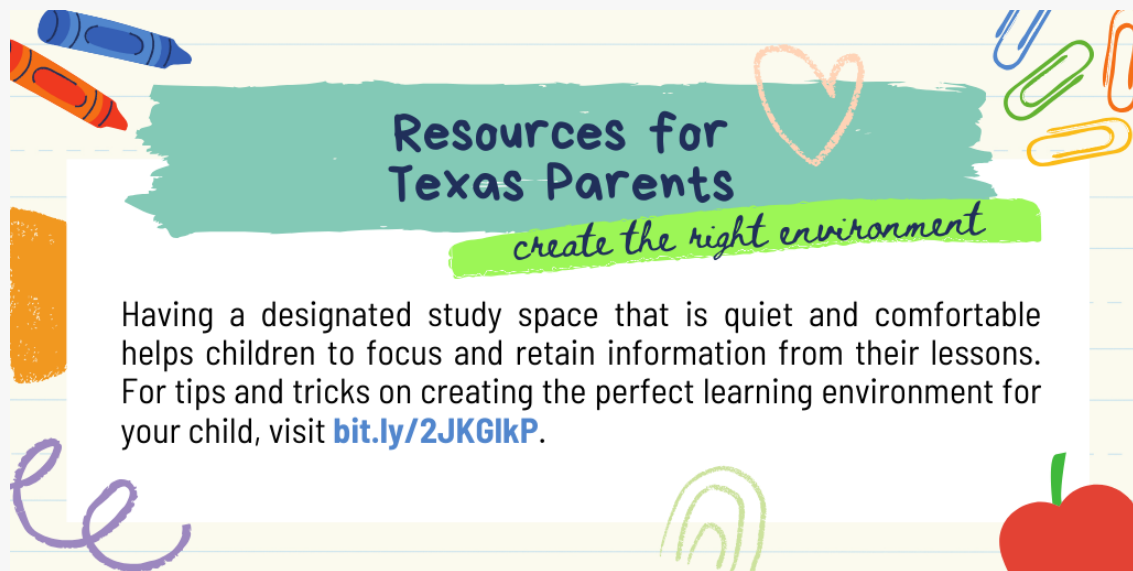
# TDI: Apply to be an Arbitrator

## Apply to be an Arbitrator

We are accepting applications from those interested in becoming an arbitrator for billing disputes between health plans and out-of-network providers. Applications will be accepted until May 27, 2020. Apply and learn more

[Read more](#)  
[content.govdelivery.com](https://content.govdelivery.com)

## More Resources for At-Home Schooling



## Updates From the District

### IH-69 Upcoming Traffic Impacts

#### Interstate Highway 69 Main Lane & Frontage Road Impacts

IH-69 in New Caney will be reduced by 2 lanes in both northbound and southbound directions TONIGHT between 8PM-5AM, as crews continue with bridge work.





## Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program

The Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP) offers a conditional scholarship to a deserving student dedicated to education and military service. Created in 2009 by the 81st Legislature, the TASSP was designed to financially assist post-secondary students by encouraging them to become members of the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, the United States Coast Guard, the United States Merchant Marine, or to become commissioned officers in any branch of the armed services of the United States. Each year the Texas Governor and Lieutenant Governor appoint up to two students, and each Texas State Senator and State Representative may appoint one student.



State Representative Dan Huberty  
House District 127

### The Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program Guidelines

The Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP) offers a conditional scholarship to a deserving student dedicated to education and military service. Created in 2009 by the 81st Legislature, the TASSP was designed to financially assist post-secondary students by encouraging them to become members of the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, the United States Coast Guard, the United States Merchant Marine, or to become commissioned officers in any branch of the armed services of the United States. Each year the Texas Governor and Lieutenant Governor appoint up to two students, and each Texas State Senator and State Representative may appoint one student.

To be eligible, the student must fulfill two of the following four requirements:

1. On track to graduate or has graduated high school with the Distinguished Level of Achievement Plan or the International Baccalaureate Program (IB);
2. Has a current high school GPA of 3.0 or higher or graduated with a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale;
3. Is currently ranked in the top third of their prospective high school graduating class or graduated in the top third of their graduating class;
4. Has achieved a college readiness score on the SAT (1070) or ACT (23).

To receive the scholarship, a student must:

1. Be enrolled in a Texas public or private accredited institution of higher education;
2. Enroll in and be a member of good standing of a Reserves Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program while enrolled in the institution, as certified by the institution.
3. Enter into a written agreement with the Coordinating Board agreeing to:
  - a. Complete four years of ROTC training
  - b. Graduate no later than six years after the date the student first enrolls at an institution of higher education;
  - c. No later than six months after graduation, provide the Coordinating Board with the verification of:
    - i. A four-year commitment to be a member of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Merchant Marine; or

Visit the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#) website for more information.

## Contact Information

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